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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

cc Mohd Osman
Mary Dines
21/4

REFERENCE:

13 April 1982

Excellency,

On behalf of the Secretary-General, I wish to acknowledge your cable of 17 February 1982.

You may be sure that the Secretary-General views chemical weapons as an abhorrent means of mass destruction, of which the use in war is forbidden by the Geneva Protocol of 17 June 1925. For a number of years now negotiations have been conducted, in particular in the framework of the Committee on Disarmament in Geneva, on a ban on the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and their destruction. Each year the international community, through the General Assembly, has called for the early conclusion of a convention to this effect.

Pursuant to a mandate given him in 1980 by General Assembly resolution 35/144 C, the Secretary-General has appointed a group of qualified medical and technical experts who are at the moment engaged in collecting and examining evidence with regard to reports about the alleged use of chemical weapons. As shown in the report which the group of experts submitted in the autumn of 1981, of which a copy is attached, the investigation, in accordance with the resolution referred to, is carried out in respect of reports previously received. In 1981,

His Excellency
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by resolution 36/96 C, the General Assembly extended the mandate of the expert group with regard to its ongoing investigation. The task of the expert group thus being clearly limited to certain previously reported events, the Secretary-General suggests that for it to investigate the events referred to in the cable from the Islamic Council, the General Assembly would have to take a further, specific decision.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M'Hamed Essaafi'.

M'Hamed Essaafi
Chef de Cabinet